

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This image-forming device is a device such as a digital copier or digital multifunction ~~peripherals-peripheral~~ that handles images obtained by optically reading an original document as digital data.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An example of a data structure for the distribution management information 410 is shown in FIG. 5. In this example, the distribution management information 410 first starts from an identifier 412 for the management information itself, the size 414 of the management information itself is then described, with information 420 for accessing data stored in the device (in this embodiment, the RAM 14) to which the job data is ~~distributed~~ distributed to ~~then being described~~. The information 420 includes a distribution destination device identifier 422, a storage position 424 within this device for data stored in a distributed manner at this distribution destination device, and a data size 426 for this data. When the distribution destination device is the RAM 14, a start address of a data storage area for the data in the RAM 14 can be used as the storage position 424.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, when the degree of confidentiality for the job data is high, deleting as large a portion of this data as possible when the data is no longer necessary is effective from a security point of view. ~~The mount-~~ The amount of data allocated to the RAM 14 is therefore larger for a higher degree of confidentiality.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Moreover, in cases where there are a plurality of storage devices other than the HDD 16 to which job data is allocated, it is preferable for the amount of data allocated to the plurality of storage devices to be decided according to the speed of writing and reading to these storage devices. The speed of writing and reading to each storage device influences the speed of storing and reading of job data overall, and it is therefore preferable for the amount of data allocated to storage devices that write and read slowly to be small. For example, when data is allocated to an EEPROM in addition to the RAM 14, the speed of writing and reading to and from the EEPROM is slow compared to the RAM 14 and the HDD 16, and the amount of data allocated to the EEPROM is made smaller than the amount of data allocated to RAM.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A device structure that does not utilize the RAM 14 can also be considered as a modified example of this embodiment. This example is shown in FIG. 9. ~~In FIG. 9, and In~~ FIG. 9, structural elements that are the same as or analogous to structural elements shown in FIG. 2 are given the same numerals and description thereof is omitted.

Please replace the Abstract with the attached amended Abstract.